



European Journal for Qualitative Research in Psychotherapy

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‘Moving forward’: Honouring Ken’s legacy; Welcoming the new Board

Ken Evans founded the *European Journal for Qualitative Research in Psychotherapy* in 2006. Initially it was an Anglo/Norwegian collaboration between Ken, the Scarborough Psychotherapy Training Institute and Dan Van Baalen of the Norwegian Gestalt Institute. Later Ken hosted the journal through the European Centre for Psychotherapeutic Studies and became Chief Editor.

Ken believed in the importance of qualitative research, that it shared the values of relational psychotherapy and was compatible philosophically. He felt it offered some sort of balance to the randomised clinical trials and evidence-based practice, so loved by fundholders. He wanted the journal to be freely and widely available.

When he died suddenly and tragically in 2015, he had just produced this 8th issue. He was also passionately committed to the well-being of the planet, to eco-ethics and to the development of interspecies psychotherapy. One of the last things he wrote was about “the need for a radical re-think of our relationship with nature and non-human species, not simply for survival but for the re-integration of the human spirit. The implications for clinical practice are significant”.

I am very grateful to EAIP for giving the journal a new home; to Francis Wilkinson for her support and expertise; and to Linda Finlay for taking it forward as Editor.

Ken was instrumental in setting up the EAIP together with Maria Gilbert and was its first President. He was

President again when he died. Supporting the journal seems a way of honouring his work for the organisation and continuing his legacy.

Ken would be delighted that Linda Finlay has agreed to become the new Editor. He valued his work with Linda and was proud of the book they co-authored, ‘*Relational-centred research for psychotherapists*’. Ken very much appreciated Linda’s knowledge and her established reputation as a researcher. He enjoyed the way they were able to share and bring together experience and expertise from different fields. He was also grateful for the support both Linda and Francis gave to the journal when he was Editor. He said Francis was endlessly patient with his limited IT skills!

So, a big welcome to Linda and to the Editorial Board; and thank you to all those making this possible. The resurrection of the journal feels like a seed of hope. Ken would be very happy to see this issue has finally been published and to know that other volumes are planned. He lives on through the continuation of his work, through the encouragement of new authors and psychotherapy researchers.

It is also important that EAIP, Linda, and the new Editorial team make this journal their own. Ken didn’t believe in things standing still or staying the same. He believed in movement and change.

As his epitaph he wanted:

*Live life fully,
Love Generously
Become all that you can be.*

I hope this journal will give those involved in its publication, new authors, researchers and readers the chance to become more of who they are.

Joanna Hewitt Evans
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